Mouth of the River

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
--Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

In This Premiere Issue of 1996...

The Old Farmer's Almanac's Gardening Tip For October: Pick green tomatoes that will not ripen before frost and use them for pickles and preserves.

Vol. XIX No. 1 *** Oyster River High School **Thursday, October 10, 1996** Durham, New Hampshire 16 Pages FREE

Visit the *Mouth of the River* on the World-Wide-Web: http://www.mv.com/ipusers/orol/schools/orhs/mor/index.html

Traffic Control Poses a Problem at ORHS

Dan McClain and Matt Whittier

It's hot. The traffic is bumper to bumper. There are cars and trucks everywhere, people are yelling. You can feel a drop of sweat slowly roll down the side of your face. Does this sound like I-95, 101 or 495 to you? Maybe, but in fact this is the all too familiar scene that takes place at 2:30 every Monday through Friday right out in front of Oyster River High School.

As recently as two weeks ago, there was an incident in which a student inadvertently stepped out in front of another student's car and was hit. The student didn't sustain any injuries, and the driver was absolved of blame. But even so, a student was hit right on the doorstep of Oyster River High. What happens when a more serious accident occurs?

One can sense the urgency that students have regarding the situation. Senior Jill Varney said ,"I feel that there are too many cars and not enough space".

And obviously, students are not the only ones who are aware of the situation. First year principal Mr. Cairns acknowledged that there is a big problem, but he can't guarantee that a solution is imminent.

Photo by David Jackson
The busy traffic at the end of the school day has already led to one hit student.

Large Freshman Class Spells Big Crowding Problem For OR Hallways

Katlin Gregg

Students, faculty, and parents are realizing that there are pressing space concerns at the high school.

The need for more space is apparent in the crowded hallways as well as the growing numbers of students in classes. What most students don't realize is the large costs of making the necessary renovations and expansions of the high school.

For Mr. Christopher Cairns, the new principal at ORHS, the first step in the renovation process is consulting students about their observations on the lack of space. Mr. Cairns feels it is essential to present the OR School Board with a plan that is fiscally sound and practical. "I would like to be able to involve students in decisions such as paint and furniture," he stated.

In order to study the options for addressing space needs issues, the OR School Board formed a space needs committee. "People wrote to the board explaining why they would like to be a part of the committee" said Mrs. Thompson, a school board member. This committee is made up

Photo by David Jackson
The Oyster River Space Needs Committee has beeen called upon by the Oyster River School Board to help with ORHS' immense crowding issue.

See Space, page 5

Photo by David Jackson
New art teacher Tim Lawrence is taking over for Bill Childs who had been at ORHS for over two decades.

New Year Brings New Faculty to Oyster River

Dan McClain and Jared Blaisdell

Who is that strange man walking down the hall? And her, who is that? I have Brewer for English class.....who is that? With the new school year and a growing number of students enrolling in classes here come more new teachers than we at ORHS have seen in years. That strange face you saw walking down the hall on the first day may have turned out to be your art teacher, English teacher, counselor, or even principal.

One of our new English teachers, Barbara Alexander, comes to us after teaching at Merrimack Valley for five

See Faculty, page 5

OR Students Play the Political Pundit's Part

Kirby Johns

If you could have dinner with anyone in the country, who would it be? A recent poll of ORHS students determined that it most certainly would not be a politician. When given a choice of eight national figures, four of them politicians, the non-politicians were favored with 68% of the vote.

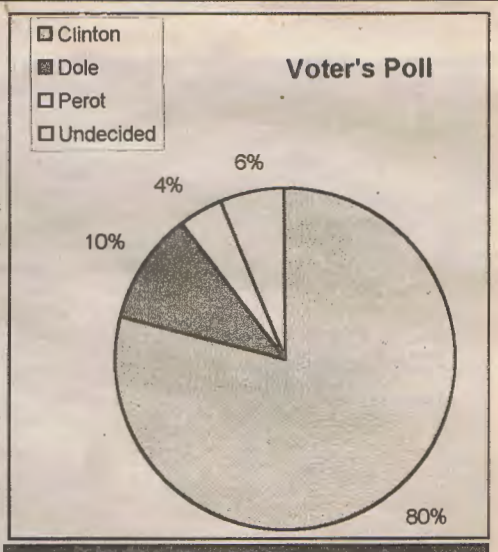
What does this tell us? Politicians are ideally role models that we can look up to and trust, but students seem to be looking elsewhere. Tom Hanks was the most popular response, with 21%; Michael Jordan received 19%, Alanis Morrisette and John F. Kennedy, Jr. with 13%. Bill Clinton came close with 12%. Hillary Clinton, Al Gore, and Newt Gingrich rounded out the survey.

"I'd like to have dinner with all of them, so I could smack them upside the head!" commented one student. This disenchanted attitude seemed to be the norm for many students. When asked which politicians they trusted the most, the most popular response was "None."

"Politics is a foggy mire full of snakes," remarked one student.

"Politicians will do anything to win an election," said an-

See Politics, Page 4



Adv. Bio Class to Explore the Great Outdoors

John Dubiansky

Many students feel that even though we have a courtyard, there is still no way to escape the school for a break. Mr. Byrnes and his Advanced Biology class plan to change all that with their student project. It will provide a place for study and recreation.

Mr. Byrnes emphasized that this does not belong to the Advanced Biology class "The site belongs to the whole school." The site can be used by biology classes studying plants, art classes looking for inspiration, or by students who just want to go for a walk. He also said anyone is invited to help with the work.

Photo by David Jackson

Students of Advanced Biology survey the land that they hope to one day call a "classroom".

The project will be focusing on the land this year. The class plans to assess the land for its biological value, and restore it to it's original beauty. This may include transplanting or promoting growth of plants that humans have removed.

Mr. Byrnes hopes to have a complete trail along with above ground walkways and signs explaining what you are looking at as you go along. He said the purpose of the wΩalkways is to protect the plants and animals living in the woods. Mr. Byrnes Said that the walkways may not be in place this year. How far they get depends on help and time.

Another issue is money They do not plan to hire any one to do work but will have to pay for supplies. We have no cost figure yet, but they are applying for grants from UNH to keep it down.

Kim Parsons of the Site Planning committee said that for this year that they hope to have the site fixed up. She also said that they will have to remove some brush, but they will be careful about what and how much is removed. "We want to do it right." Mr. Byrnes said and said that because the sight is close to a stream they will need a permit to remove any brush.

Mr. Byrnes was very clear that this is a school project and that he is only the person who has started the ball rolling. He said that the idea has been in the school for a while and he hopes now it will be a reality.

Blocked Courses at Oyster River

Rob Heuchling

Wouldn't it be great if you were only expected to go to a class three times a week? Would you like to be able to get some work-like experience doing real work for real businesses? Students this year are already doing these things in the now blocked Advanced Biology class and the newly added Printershop class.

Printshop has students doing real jobs for real businesses. Using mostly computers the students "combine, writing, graphics, and computer knowledge with an actual business setting," says founder and teacher Mr. Tappan.

The students work for themselves, their teacher and a real client. These clients include many local businesses including the Sub Stop and the Licker Store. Working for a client gives students experience mostly only obtained at a vocational school says Mr. Tappan.

Student reactions so far have been all positive. There's more incentive to get it done when you have a real deadline say Stephanie Shanda. "You work all period, but it's all fun," says Jason Crow, another student.

Printshop has begun working on 12 pamphlets for local businesses. The pamphlets done for the activity fair were also all done by Printshop students. Mrs. Schaeffer, the Spanish club advisor, descibes the pamphlet done for her as "dynamite." The pamphlet for Peer Outreach wasn't completed on time, but Peer Outreach advisor Mrs. Houseman said "I'm psyched that they're doing it. It's agreat way to take skills and put them to a practical use." The class was inspired by a $180,000 school to work grant. This grant was to encourage changes in curriculum to help kids gain work place experience.

The blocking of classes is a new change at ORHS. Blocking is when the students in a class have two periods of the same class in a row. This term only advanced bio is being blocked. Next term Videotape Production and Debate and Persuasion will also be blocked.

In an unblocked bio class more time is spent setting up and breaking down a lab than actually on the lab, says Mr. Byrnes a six year bio teacher. "[The blocking of classes] forces a class to be more activity centered than lecture centered," he says. Sherif Farag, an advanced Bio student says, "It gives us a chance to work comprehensivly for two hours doing things that wouldn't be done in a normal class period."

In 1993 an advisory council was formed on how to improve class insrtuction and attitude. This council found that blocked classes is one of the better methods to increase student involvement and grades in classes. This is because blocked classes forces teachers to find new methods of teaching that keep students inyterested through two hours.

The Oyster River Granitie State Challenge team won its first contest handily, and will wage war again on Oct. 23. Come watch the excitement!

Mouth of the River

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Students, Faculty React to Cairns

Michael A. Beland

The man from California is finally here. Better than a picture in a local newspaper, or quotes from School Board members about him, Christopher Cairns has finally arrived at Oyster River High School to assume his position as principal.

Mr. Cairns stated in a recent interview that "My first impressions are extremely positive. I like the school a lot. There are good people here: Students, faculty, and we have a tremendous support staff." He continued, saying, "The students are courteous, they like being here, and, for the most part, like to work hard."

Cairns also said that, "It is important to build more school spirit here, and programs, such as the Senate, are good programs that I can incorporate my ideas with to better the school. I do not want to be the only one trying to build school spirit, and nor should the students be taking on this task alone, we must work together." Cairns was at the first Senate meeting on September 26.

Already several students are feeling the conviction in Cairns' ambitions. Senior Amy Sawyer said, "Mr. Cairns is really easy to talk to. After the first time I met him, he knew my name."

Senior Greg Sterndale, the

See Cairns, page 5

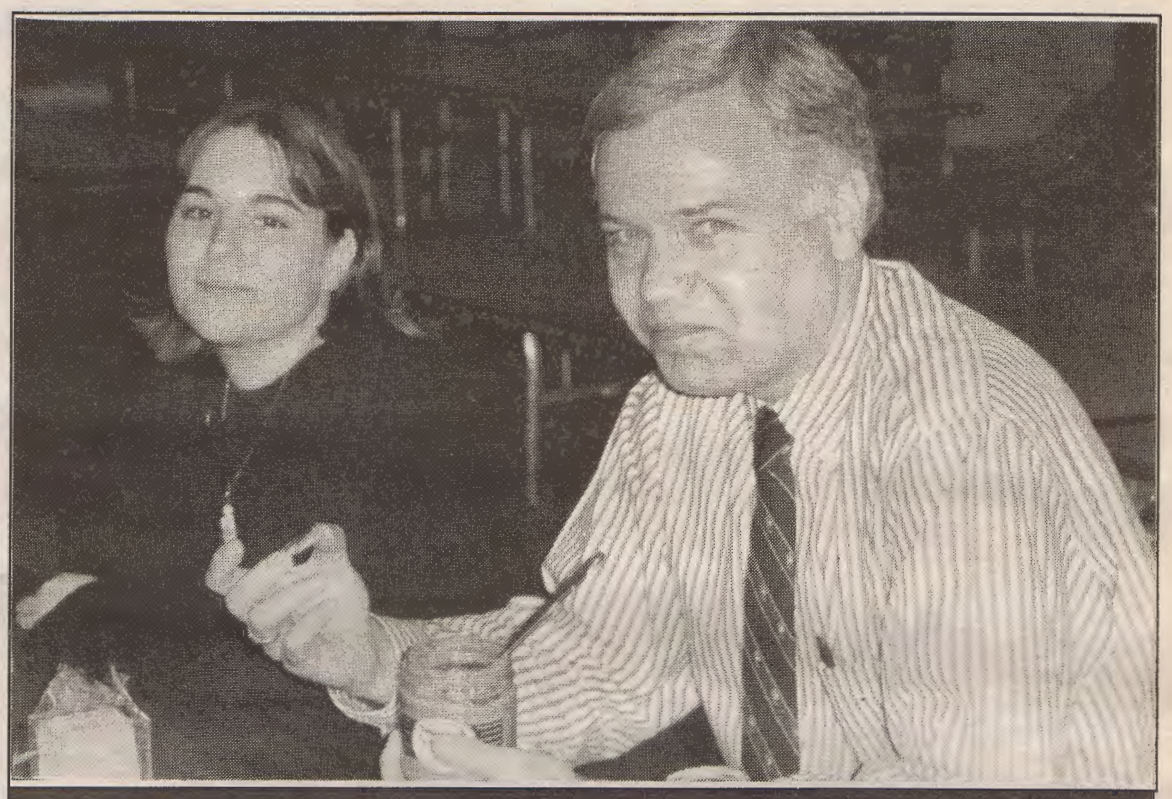

Photo by David Jackson

Mr. Cairns offers an unconventional pose, while enjoying lunch with Rebecca DeVoter. Cairns is happy to have finally taken over the job he sought for over 6 months.

The OR Senate Executive Committee: Faculty Executive, Richard Tappan; Senate Moderator, Eric Lang; Secretary, Katlin Gregg; Rep. to School Board, Mike Beland; and Treasurer, Mike Casey.
Photo by David Jackson

OR Senate Opens Up to the Community

Eric Lang

t's a new school year, and with that brings a new ORHS Senate. With our School Constitution on the verge of ratification by the O.R. School Board, all Senate members are eager to begin discussing issues within our school and community.

The Senate is headed by an Executive Committee made up of the moderator, Eric Lang; assistant moderator, Emma Torbert; secretary, Kaitlin Gregg; treasurer, Mike Casey; school board representative, Mike Beland, and faculty executive, Mr. Tappan. This committee plans the agendas for the meetings and oversees the entire Senate. New this year to the Senate are three members of the community. They were elected by the community last spring, and add a new, and vital aspect to the ORHS Senate. The community members are Mr. Evan Welch, Mrs. Shirley Thompson, and Ms. Kendree Parker.

The first major topic of discussion within the Senate is the space needs of the high school. Members of the Space Needs District Committee met with the Senate and disucssed what improvements need to be made to the high school in the coming years. In an attempt to involve all students in this process, the issue was discussed and opinions recorded in homerooms. All of the feedback was then submitted in a written report to the district committee.

With rookie and veteran members serving on the Senate, we should have an exceptional year. We welcome any and all ideas or issues for consideration in the Senate. If you have an idea, please tell a senator from your class. Their job is to represent everyhone as best he or she can. With open minds, hard work, and dedicated members, we hope to benefit the school, its students, its faculty, and the community as a whole in the year ahead.

The Next Senate meeting is Thursday, Oct. 17, at 3:00. All are welcomed to attend.

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JP's EATERY

Photo by David Jackson

Mr. Mroz is currenly planning a trip to tour the west during the summer of 1997. He is looking for four boys and four girls. If you are interested in touring Mr. Mroz's "Wild West", see him in his room.

Seniors React to Freshmen Siblings at ORHS

Abbi Green

With a new year comes more freshmen, and for some, a chance for seniors to attend school with their freshmen siblings, who they have not attended school with since elementary school.

We have this idea that siblings have a connection like no other, which may be true, but it isn't always a poistive one. In high school, you usually do go to school with your brothers and sisters. Do siblings who attend the same school actually have a closer bond or can it become a burden, especially when one sibling is freshman and the other is a senior?

Senior Jeremy Gasowski commented about going to O.R. with his freshman brother by saying, "It's nice to have someone to laugh with and to see someone go through the same thing you did." Senior Amos Goss agreed by saying, "It brightens my day to see his 'big hair' in the halls."

Freshman Colon Burke says it's hard sometimes because people assume you are just like your sibling, while most are very different.

Beth Kraft, on the other hand, feels it doesn't affect her day at all. "I never see my sister." Matt Whittier has the same opinion, saying that since he doesn't play sports with his brother and doesn't have any classes with him their friendship hasn't become any weaker or stronger.

The majority of the freshmen like it because it gives them someone who understands what they are going through. "If I'm having a bad day I can usually talk to him about it," freshman Carl Gasowski commented.

Jumps

Politics (cont'd from page 1)

other.

"Politicians suck, all they do is lie."

"They are all lying, cheating people out for money or power."

"Politicians are conditioned to tell people what they want to hear."

"They're all pretty much idiots who don't have a clue."

Those who said they did trust politicians gave varying reasons. "Shaheen has children, she lives near me, and she seems to know what she wants and what she's doing."

"Bob Dole is a long-time senator, respected by both parties. Dan Quayle has good morals."

"I trust Clinton, he does a good job leading our country."

"Al Gore—he seems to be a family-oriented man who would really like to get the old traditional values back in our country."

Students seemed to be pretty well informed about the candidates. Almost all knew who the three major presidential candidates were, although many did not know the Republican candidate for governor of New Hampshire.

They also knew what issues were important to them (see graph). Abortion was important to 44% of students. Not suprisingly, educational reform was a concern for 40%, as were gun control, the national deficit, drug policy, and taxes. The personal lives of the candidates was a concern for only 2%. "It's a waste of time and funds," commented one student. This is a suprising statistic, considering all the time the media devotes to informing us about the lives of the candidates.

ORHS is considering holding a mock election in November; however, only a few seniors will be actually voting in those little booths in the caf. on Election Day. From the results here, however, it's obvious that most students are both informed and opinionated on politics.

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LABEL ALL PRESCRIPTIONS

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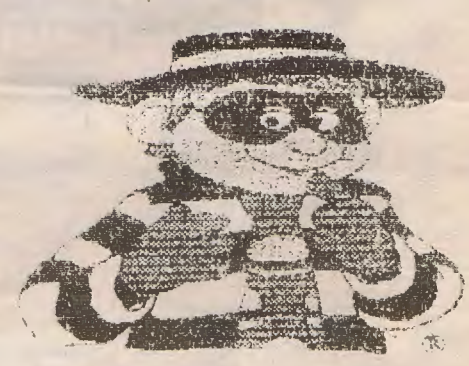


Compliments of the Barnes Family

Jumps

Space (cont'd from page 1)

of members of the surrounding communities, faculty, administration, and a student at the high school. Members of the committee are now involved in a in-depth study, including of how to improve the existing facilities at the high school.

This study is a continuing process and has included population perdictions and many proposals for improvments such as a new gym and an inclosed courtyard. It also includes the student imput generated during hoomroom. The population figures are integral because they show how many students the building will have to accomadate in the year 2010, which is roughly 850.

Taxes are a large concern for the communities surrounding ORHS, and that effects the plans for renovations. Mr. Nichols, the fauclty representative involved with the project, stated "Nobody wants to spend more money on taxes." He also said that while people don't want to spend more, it is worth it to mantain a "high quality of education."

George Rief, chairperson of the committee on space needs, feels it is important to look at the High school as "a learning space, opposed to a teaching space." He also feels that student imput is vital to the process, and presented these sentiments at the Student Senate meeting on September 26. The meeting generated many suggestions by students about the most important goals of the renovations. Eric Lang, moderator of the senate, said, "the issue effects everyone in the school, so everyone should have a chance to give imput."

Faculty (cont'd from page 1)

years, and prior to that, at Timberlane for a year. Her educational background includes a diploma at Winnacunnet High School, as well as UNH. Ms Alexander says she became a teacher because she wanted to help kids learn to think. She is currently in her seventh year of teaching, but plans to teach for at least ten more years.

"Teaching is my goal in life for now," says Ms. Alexander.

She says that she so far has enjoyed the transition from Merrimack Valley to Oyster River because she thinks that "many of the students here are more motivated," and because "the faculty is more friendly. All around it is a great atmosphere in which to work."

Because of the departure of Mr. Childs last year, OR will employ its first new art teacher in over twenty years. Tim Lawrence comes to us fresh off of completing the brand new school sign that now stands out front in memory of Ms. Brown and Mrs. Thompson's late husband.

Mr. Lawrence attended the Art Institute of Boston and Pratt, and received his Master's degree at UNH. He then took an internship which he said "put me at a great advantage."

Mr. Lawrence feels that his teaching position was almost meant to be. "With all the schooling I've had, ot feels natural to be a teacher in one," he says. "I used to be on the other side of the desk.....I like the teachers' side better."

Martin Brewer, a new English teacher here at OR, spent the last five years at St. Thomas, and taught English and Drama in England for five years previous to that. "The students are very positive and lively. They have much more self-expression. I think that they are encouraged [by the faculty] to express themselves. There is a special bond between the teachers and the students. There is also a lot of school spirit here, which I think is great."

Mr. Troy, the new industrial arts teacher, previous to taking the Oyster River job, was traveling all over the country teaching construction and fiberoptics. Mr. Troy says the school has "great kids and faculty," and that he will stay here as long as he can. He adds that the school is "awesome," and that the atmosphere is very friendly.

Ms. Gahm, who prefers to be addressed as Holly, is available to all students who have a problem, as well as those who just need some support. She encourages students to leave a note in the pocket on her door of her office (in the back of room 11) if she is unavailable.

Mrs. Wortley, the new guidance counselor, has been very active in trying to help seniors decide what they are going to do with the rest of their lives. She participated in the senior class meeting regarding the college fair, among other things. She was also involved with the seminar about college essay-writing.

Overall, the impressions of these new teachers of OR are very positive. So the next time you see a strange face in the hall, give them a smile, say, "Hello", and introduce yourself. Three other faculty members will be profiled in November.

Cairns (cont'd from page 1)

chairperson of the Student Principal Search Committee, said, "He is trying really hard to get to know students."

Assistant Principal Bryan Lane said, "Mr. Cairns wants every student to know where he stands on issues, and what he wants to accomplish. He is certainly the person who has the ability to attain these goals."

Nancy Winterbottom, Assistant Principal, said, "I respect his organization and his organizational leadership skills. I really think that it is invigorating to have a fresh start." Winterbottom continued, "The students seem comfortable, and that is extremely important."

Many Oyster River students were surprised with Cairns' enforcing of OR's long written, but rarely applied, policy of no clothing displaying/promoting alcohol, tobacco, and drug products. Cairns says, "I am very concerned with substance abuse."

Other students, however, find themselves in disagreement with the new principal's philosophy. Senior Amos Goss said, "Students should be allowed to wear whatever they want to, unless it hinders another's learning environment. If no students complain, I do not think clothing should be an issue." Goss continued, "How comforting is it to know that you cannot wear what you want in your own school?"

Cairns says, however, "I would like to work with the Senate to hear the voices of students with regards to the policy. I am wanting to hear the input of students on this issue."

Senior Kelsey Taylor said, "Mr. Cairns has very positive ideas, but I never see him to discuss his new policies."

Only two weeks into the 1996-1997 school year, students are realizing how hard the job of following Ms. Brown's footsteps will be for Mr. Cairns. Matt Derocchi, a senior, said, "He has big shoes to fill. People may have negative or indifferent opinions now because of this. It is hard for him to know everyone so soon, and it is also wrong for us tc judge him so soon. We need to give him time and a chance to create his own legacy at Oyster River. For now, we must all have opened minds."

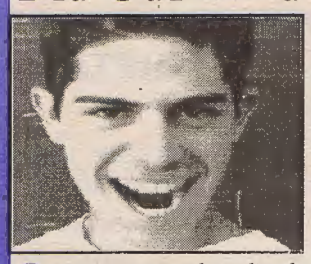
In the next issue: NEASC progress

Editorial

Brian C. Swift Nov. 27, 1977-Oct. 6, 1995

"If people bring so much courage to this world the world has to kill them to break them. The world breaks every one and afterward many are strong at the broken places. But those that will not break it kills. It kills the very good and the very gentle and the very brave impartially." --Hemingway

Did Our Kindergarten Teachers Ever Tell Us to Put Glitter on Our Faces?



Cris Alvarez

Do you remember, back in elementary school, art class. Or perhaps arts and craft time? We had paste, we had construction paper, we had magic markers, we had.....glitter. A few years have passed since we cut shapes out of construction paper, ate the paste and found glitter to have an actual purpose. A few years have passed, that is, for most of us.

A new fad has donned the halls of of Oyster River this year. No, it's not the tiny freshmen. It's giltter. Giltter on the face to be more accurate. Where this trend started, I do not know.

Was I absent, that day in Kindergarten, when the teacher said, "glitter also looks good on your face?" Who ever thought of that? Do they sell glitter on a stick specifically for cosmetic purposes? Was someone in Walmart with their younger sibling one day, buying glitter, and thought, "I wonder if this would look good on my face?" I'm sorry, but that just isn't the thought of a rational human being.

The Random House College Dictionary defines giltter as, "small gilttering ornaments; to reflect light with a brilliant luster; to sparkle." Ornaments. Ornaments belong on a tree with a big star on top. What's the next fad to hit? The star itself?

Another thing, wasn't glitter supposed to give off the impression of happiness and represent all that is good? "To reflect light with a brilliant luster," referring to the definition. It may just be me, but some of these glitter bearers do not reflect xlight with any sort of luster, much less brilliance. In fact, they do just the opposite. They are walking oxymorons. It's like Charles Manson handing out flowers with the rest of the Hare Krishnas.

Bottom line is, let's remember the skills we all learned in Kindergarten and let's leave the glitter to our younger siblings to put on construction paper.

Cris Alvarez is *MOR*'s Ambassador to Sri Lanka. He also enjoys fishing for large mouth bass.

Politeness is a Foreign Word At ORHS

Josh Evans

Someone lets the door slam in your face when your hands are full. The person in front of you in the lunch line asks the lunch lady for an "f-ing cheeseburger." An apple finds its way across the lunch room and onto the freshman table. Someone drops a gum wrapper on the ground when the garbage is two feet away.

If you can honestly say that you haven't seen or experienced one of the above scenarios, then you must not be going to Oyster River. Very simply put, we here at OR have a problem with civility.

ci·vil·i·ty (si vil'i te), *n., pl.* **-ties.** **1.** courtesy; politeness.

2. a polite attention or expression: *an exchange of civilities.*

There has long been a problem with civility in this high school and it disturbs me to hear so many people griping about some of the new rules being instituted in the school. Don't get me wrong, I think that the problem with civility is getting better, not worse. It's just that we need to understand that these rules stem from a history of not so civil behavior, and not an attempt by the administration to "ruin our fun."

The word civility might be considered archaic and outdated, but the concept is nothing new. Respect. Even if you dislike some teachers or administrators, they do not deserve to be referred by some vulgarity. Courtesy. Despite what the politically correct 90's might tell you, it is still okay to hold the door for someone if they have their hands full (or just to be nice). Politeness. It's good to ask questions, and it's good to express your opinion, but don't just yell it out.

If you think that I'm asking too much, I'm sorry. Unfortunately, most people outside of this little community we call school won't be so apologetic.

For those who thing that we should be able to dress however we want, please consider the following. Let me begin by saying that I am a complete proponent of free speech, freedom of expression and all that good stuff. But the truth is, there is a line you can cross (however gray that line may be). I'm sorry, but if your co-ed naked shirt would make Courtney Love throw up, that's not something to wear to school. If you want to express your sexuality at home by wearing a grotesquely suggestive shirt, be my guest.

Ladies and gentlemen, civility is getting better here at OR. At some time in the future, many of these rules may not even be necessary. But in the meantime, realize that the rules haven't been made to ruin you life, they have been made to make your life a little more...civil.

Josh Evans is *MOR*'s News Editor. On early Wednesdays, he enjoys the Denny's All-You-Can-Eat Buffet.

"Mom, I Want A Beeper"

Last night, my parents asked me what I wanted for my birthday. A question that is usually very easy to answer, was actually quite difficult. I already have a stereo, an electric shaver, and a dog. It was not until today that I figured out what I can no longer live without: A beeper.

The reasons for having a beeper, here at school, are inexhaustable. If you're in a class, and a friend is in the bathroom, they can page you to get your attention. If you are in lunch, you can page a friend in class to tell them how good the tacos here at OR are.

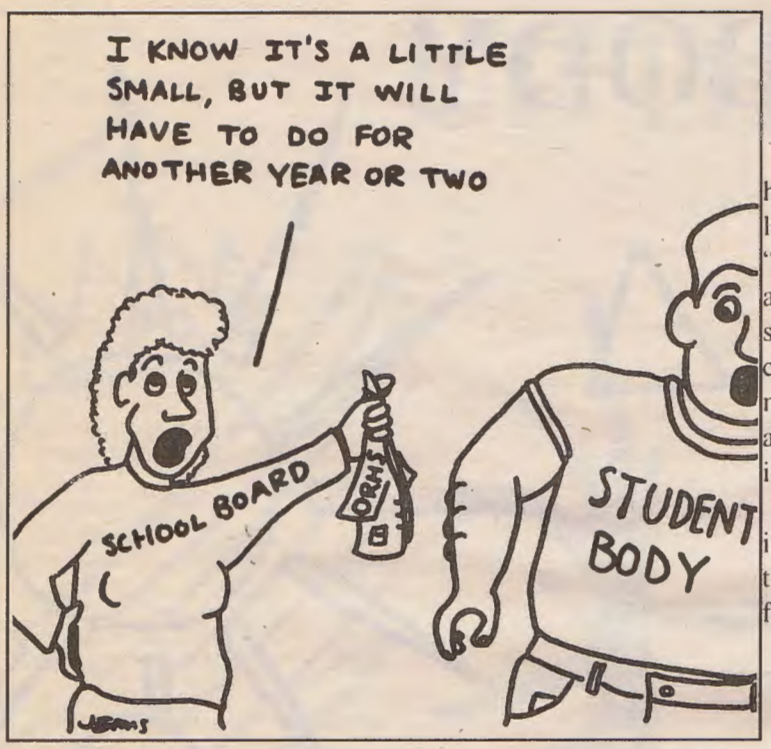
What happens if you want to talk to a friend down the hall, but the hallway is too crowded? Use a beeper: Tell them you love them. There are too many reasons for using a beeper, and it was not until now that I am realizing how much of an asset that they are.

Speaking of my dog, Tu-Pac, I should put one on him. If he is outside, and I want him in, I will just beep him. Simple. Mr. Gasowski was recently asking me what we should do for Activity Day: How about a summit for the several uses of beepers?

Beepers would be great to use in order to send for food from the cafeteria. In the middle of class, I could just beep Louraine and have my "Dippers" in a few minutes. Beepers are truly creating a brighter tomorrow.

If you see a black dog roaming the streets of Durham, don't worry, I'll be beeping him soon.

The views and opinions presented in the commentaries reflect the opinions of the authors; not necessarily those of the entire staff. The Editorial reflects the views and opinions of the entire editing staff. Live Free or Die.



We'reovercrowded!!

Dave Lavoie

The two words "Space Needs" have become common vocabulary here at ORHS. We have a "Space Needs Committee", an architectural company, and the school board all looking in to the congestion at ORHS, but nothing major seems to have comeome about. What exactly is going on in those meetings?

Not to say that nothing is being accomplished, because the truth is quite the contrary. Unfortunately, there is no way to miss the ugly truth: ORHS is overcrowded! We don't need a future solution because the situation is not going to get better or even stay the same. Freshmen class size is getting bigger every year, and it has become evident that a solution was needed years ago.

Apparently, the idea of a new school has been put out of consideration because they don't know what to do with the current school building. There are plenty of uses for this building, one of which is the senior bonfire, but more cost effective ideas include a mall, town offices, or anything else that one can put in an old, decrepit, archaic, obsolete, and generally unfulfilling building.

Not to come down on all of the people who are giving their time and effort to solving the infamous "Space Needs" dilemma, but I strongly feel that this problem needs to be resolved very soon, as a "future solution" will be too late.

Quickly Sweeping, Sadly Slipping

Jamie Renner

A new year. A new principal. A new student body. But something we can't leave behind are the memories and lessons, dark or light, of the past few years here at school. We must remember to savor each moment the clock ticks, and we can't forget that for some, the clock sweeps. Between each second on the majority of our watches is a pause. Savor it.

Leather band
gold head
watch

its second hand
sweeps
time passes
time runs

never stopping
not even for a moment
it has no breath to catch

the next second is reached
before
the first second starts
valuable
time

passing

each moment
moves by
without her at his side

rushing

the end of a battle is near
watch dictates time
which, now
is passing

quickly sweeping
sadly slipping

she lies back in her chair
her watch ticks
away the hours

slowly

between each second
of her life
is a pause

to have some time to reflect
to think a little
to be alive

she glances at her watch
again
and sighs

why is time moving so
slowly
she looks at the watch of the
man nexts to hers
the man next to hers whose
watch sweeps time away

she wishes she were on his
time— so little does she
know,
so happy she should be that
her life ticks, and not sweeps

Letters to the Editor

What We Are Doing Is Not Enough

I am a junior and a new member of SEAL. These past few weeks as I have walked around on Friday afternoons collecting paper from the recycling bins and I have noticed something rather disturbing. Although a fair amount of paper ends up in the bins, an equal amount gets tossed into the wastebaskets without a thought.

People don't realize how important recycling is. Our school has to pay a fee each time the dumpsters are emptied. The town picks up the recycling for free. We could reduce the number of times the dumpsters are emptied by one third, saving our school money. If we can recycle all of the paper we can help to decrease the amount of treēs that it requires to supply the tons of paper use by people daily. It wourd make a great difference if the people of ORHS would pay more attention to where they are putting their use paper. Hopefully by the end of this year I will see more paper in the recycling bins and less in the wastebaskets than there is now.

Rian Samuel

More Languages Would Be Nice

When I entered high school I was estatic for various reasons. One of which being that I would be able to take whatever electives that I wanted to. By taking electives of my choice, I figured that I would be able to broaden my knowledge in many topics. I know that I would also have to take all the required maths and sciences but it really concerned me when I found out that the school doesn't provide certain classes. The main reason behind my query is so when I leave for college I would have a base. By taking certain classes I would be able to weave in new interests and weave out old ones. I would already be ahead of the course selection process. Unfortunately, by the time I graduate, I will not be able to fill that base.

I am sensitive to the fact that the school budget only has a certain amount of money to provide for electives. However, I think that we should find a common ground. For instance, I have taken three years of french. In middle school they introduce languages but the student only has two to choose from. If you can't handle the language then you are thrown into a 'reading' class. I personally felt, and I still feel, that I have been neglected for many years.

In my case, I have had one interest for many years. Ever since I was a young boy I was amazed at the Mandarin language—in laymen's terms Chinese. Whenever I went into Chinese restaurants I felt awkward. I had these feelings because I never knew what the waitress was saying to the cooks. Or when I was a little slow in ordering from the menu, the waitress would mumble something low in her native tongue. If I had the chance to take Chinese in high school I would feel more comfortable and I would be able to communicate with the chinese people.

I am not alone with this issue either. I know many people who have wanted to take chinese but have been unable to. We should all get together as an 'active interest group' and stand to protest. We should unite and propose a plan for change. Let's give the upcoming students the oppotunity to fill their base. Let's give the future Oyster River Students the choice that we never had.

Anonymous

Write Letters to *MOR*. We will publish anyhting that is not vuglar, abusive, etc. A great pathway to the public is through Letters to the Editor. Drop your letters off in Mr. Tappan's room: 113.

IS ANYBODY

Durham Evangelical Church
Phone: 868-1027
Pastor: Terry Sharbaugh

Dover Baptist Church
Phone: 742-5452
Pastor: Kenneth J. Monahan

Baha'I Fellowship
Elliot, ME
(207) 439-7200

Durham Community Church
Phone: 868-9603
Minister: Dr. Jack Lynes

Durham Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship
Phone: 868-5050

Durham Community Synagogue
Phone: 868-1245
Rabbi: Dr. Dawn Rose

The Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses
Phone: 332-8280

Aryaloka Community (Buddhist)
Grant Rd. Newmarket
Phone: 659-5456

Christian Scientist Reading Room
Phone: 749-4505
Minister: varied readers

St. Thomas More
Phone: 868-1043
Pastor: Patrick Irwin

Religion Door to Door

Whenever you hear the word religion in the Oyster River School district, some of the common religions that people think of include Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and the list goes on. One religion that people do not hear much about is a Jehovah's Witness. Besides associating them with their door to door work, many students do not know the actual beliefs and teachings of a Jehovah's Witness.

David Woolf, a senior at ORHS, happens to be a Jehovah's Witness. Dave is very open about his religious beliefs and is never afraid to share his views or debate his opinions on evolution.

What exactly does a Jehovah's Witness believe in? This is a common question asked by people. All the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witness comes from the Bible. They believe in God and Jesus, but as two separate people instead of one. They also believe that there are prophecies in the Bible, and a paradise on Earth. Unlike certain religions that preach of heaven and hell, a Jehovah's Witness deals more with the resurrection of the person after death. Dave said that it is possible to be resurrected after death if the person practiced the beliefs of a Jehovah's Witness while alive on Earth, or if they learned and followed the beliefs after they died.

> ***"The odds of evolution happening are very slim."***
> ***-Dave Woolf***

Aside from attending the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses each week, Dave also takes part in door to door work. This involves going around to different houses, ringing their doorbell, and giving them information on the religion. This can include books, magazines, or simply talking with the person.

One of the teachings that is most often debated is that of evolution. Some people feel very strongly that evolution did indeed occur, while a Jehovah's Witness would say that it did not. "The odds of evolution happening are very slim," stated Dave.

One of the unique aspects of this religion is that it is so open. Many students at ORHS are afraid to talk openly at their religious beliefs. A Jehovah's Witness is the exact opposite. The door to door work that Dave does every week shows how he wants to inform as many people as possible. This is a truly interesting religion that does not get enough attention.

The Baha'i Religion

See You at the Pole: OR Students gather around the flagpole during world prayer event

The Baha'i religion was founded in 1863 in what is now known today as Iraq. Although the Baha'i faith has spread throughout the world, it is not as commonly known throughout the United States.

The founder of the Baha'i faith is believed to have been Baha'u'llah, a Persian prophet sent from God. Baha'is do believe in God and that He sent a series of prophets to teach eternal moral truths.

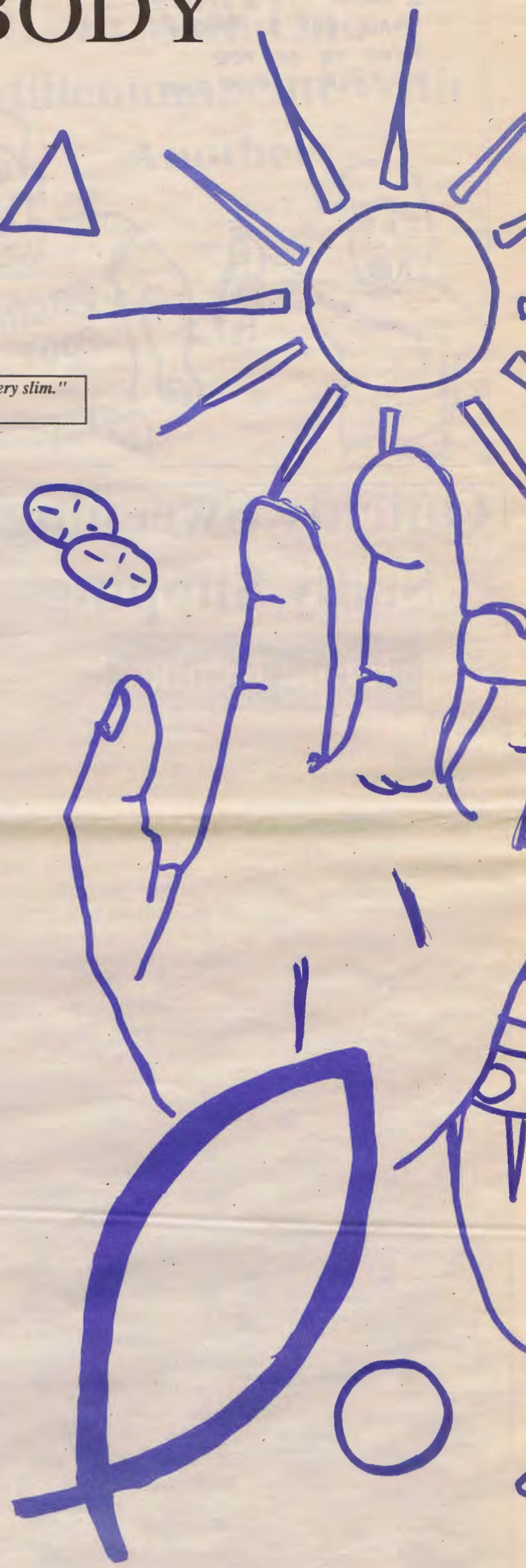
Melanie Braswell, a senior at O.R.H.S., is a follower of the Baha'i religion. She says her religious background stems from her family. "I've always been reluctant to practice this religion," states Melanie. "Because it was always pushed so heavily on me, I never wanted to take the time to understand it."

The Baha'is have about 20,000 local councils called Local Spiritual Assemblies. About 1,700 of these councils are located in the United States. A large portion of them are found in the Middle East region of the world.

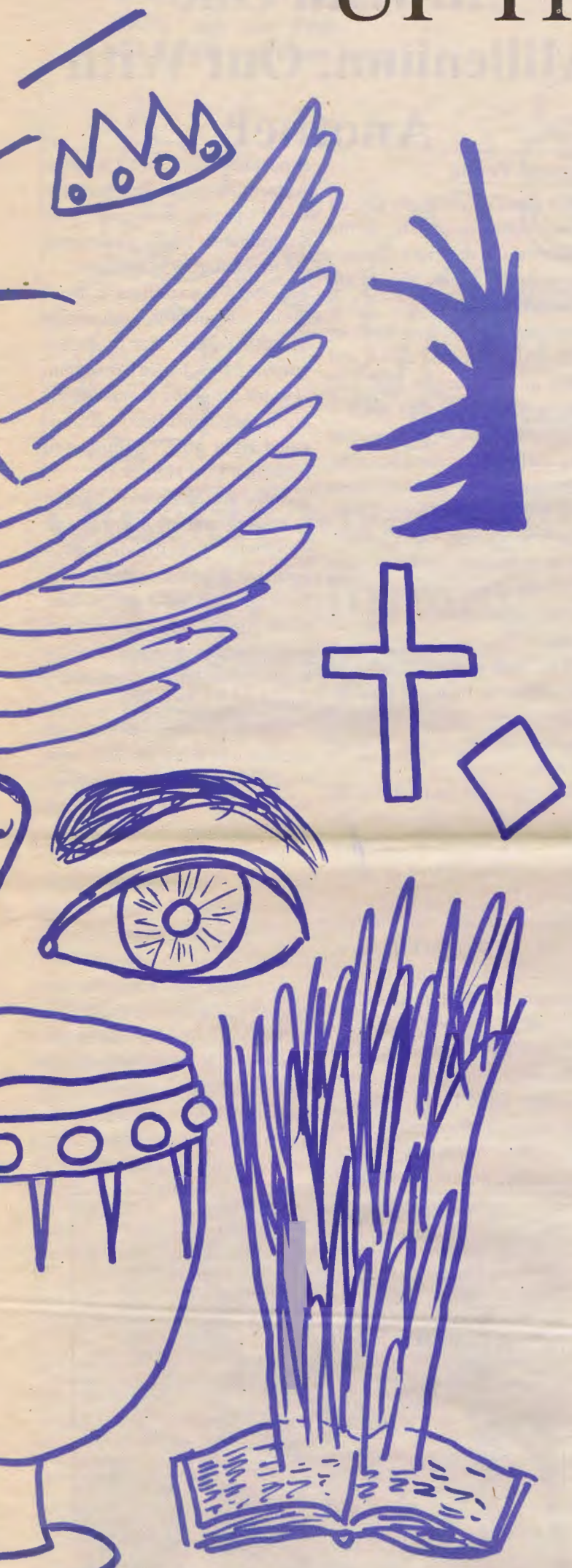
Buddhism is a separate religion dealing with meditation and enlightenment. Melanie, however, uses many of their teachings and incorporates them with Baha'i. She states that you do not have to believe in everything they preach to be fully enlightened. "If people could accept the good with the bad, it could ease much of their pain," says Melanie. "Dwelling on your pain will only cause more suffering."

Baha'i also preaches that all religions honor the same God, but do it in their own individual customs. The highest form of worship is said to be service to other humans. Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith, taught that God wanted everybody to form a united society, where no one would be discriminated against or cast off.

Although this religion is not widely known in our region of the world, it is still important to recognize the people that do practice it and learn about their beliefs. A perfect society would be one where everybody could practice whatever religion they want without getting criticized for it.



UP THERE?



At a Glance

OR Talks About Religion

- "The world is too complex of a place to have come about accidentally."
- "Most religions are a way to place responsibility on a higher entity."
- "Setup of life, the universe, and everything is too perfect to have been coincidental."
- "It's all a myth."
- "I personally think that a higher power is unlikely."
- "It's the only way to explain the awesome universe."
- "No proof."
- "Absence of proof is not proof of absence."
- "It's made up by people who need it for comfort."
- "I've just always felt close to my Heavenly Father."
- "I have never been presented with any proof of a higher power."
- "If you can't believe in a higher power, there's not much to believe in."
- "There isn't any other possible explanation for how the world began."
- "Science proves it wrong."
- "I believe that someone is watching over us, like guardian angels."
- "You don't just die, there must be an afterlife."
- "It's made up by insecure people."
- "I believe in the Big Bang, I'm sure there was a really big bang when God created the world."
- "If there is a God, he's a jerk for letting so many people die."
- "The world is too perfect to be an accident."

The Atheist Perspective

For many people, religion conjures up images of love, peace, harmony, and life. For many others, religion is another way for people to support themselves. A "crutch" as it is often refered to. Religion for them is nothing but another way for people to put hurt, pain, even joy on the shoulders of someone else.

The truth is, many people who might be consider "atheists" would call themselves more of an "agnostic". An agnostic might tell you that it's possible that there is a higher power somewhere, but that it's something that is so incomprehensible that it's not worth trying to understand.

Senior Gabe Merton would tell you that he finds religion difficult to believe. It's not that he hates the concept of a God or the idea of a higher power, it is simply that he finds the idea hard to believe.

"Where was God in World War 2? Where was God in Vietnam? Where was God when so may innocent people died?" said Gabe. "People say 'God has His reasons', fine, if that's true then I don't like the morals that he's advocating. Of course, the more logical conclusion is that there is no God."

Gabe also explained that although he doesn't subscribe to any religious doctrine, religion itself doesn't make him uncomfortable. He does not feel awkward in a church and he is very open to listening to another persons beliefs.

Senior Joe Futima takes a similar, but stronger, perspective.

"There's no proof for anything. I can't see God, I can't touch Him. There's just nothing for me to believe in because there's nothing there."

Joe says that he has always been raised in a family that doesn't believe in a God and that is where many of his feelings stem from.

"That's just the way I've grown up," commented Joe.

Gabe and Joe both talk about their feelings towards religion very strongly and assuredly. And that seems to sum up the atheist perspective pretty well: "Of course there isn't a God, isn't it obvious?"

KEEPING IT IN THE CLOSET

In the Bible, Jesus commands Christians to, "let their light shine before men." (Matthew 5:14-16). Many other major religions also command their followers to let their
"light" shine. So why are so many students at Oyster River keeping their religion in the closet?

In fact, more than 60% of students surveyed who claimed to be religious, stated that they did not want to be interviewed or have their names included in the paper if it connected them with their religion. But what keeps these teenagers from expressing what they believe?

"I'm just afraid that I'll get made fun of. It's hard enough getting into high school without getting picked on. Saying I'm [religious] just gives them something else to tease me about," said a 14 year old freshman male.

According to Paul Perry, interim youth director at Dover Baptist Church, "Most kids are afraid of the reaction they'll get from their friends. In many cases, kids want to share what they believe but they're just not sure how to go about it." And that may be the case here at OR where there are no extra-curricular religious activities at all. Compare that to Dover which has a before and after school Bible study, Portsmouth which has an afterschool prayer group, and Somersworth which has "2Extreme," a Bible study and prayer group that meets after school.

"All anyone needs to form any group is motivated and self-propelled people," said Ms. Schaeffer, "any group that is convicted and has that common bond can come together. Part of the reason our school doesn't have any official non-curricular clubs is because [OR] has a closed campus, meaning that only curriculum related clubs may meet after school."

Granted that not every religion and denomination would take the passage in Matthew as a call to tell people what they believe, it is still normal for people to let others know what they think...even if those other people disagree. Just look at politics. Every issue is highly contested and sometimes more controversial than religion is. So why are we still inclined to share our political affiliations with others and avoid our religious ones? Perhaps that question would be best answered by one of the religious students who didn't want to be interviewed. But then again, they're not availible for comment.

Survey Says...

Have you ever attended church?
Yes - 81.2%
No - 18.8%

Do you consider yourself...
Religious - 43.6%
Atheist - 11.9%
Don't Know - 44.5%

Should OR have a moment of silence?
Yes - 16.8%
No - 72.3%

No Response - 10.9%

survey of 101 OR students

On The Spot

Kirby Johns

Do You Consider the U.S. President to be a Leader?

"I look at him as a leader. As someone I look up to. I don't know about that. Good question."--**Mark Swanson, Junior**

"I look up to cartoons, so leave me alone. My hero is Eeyore." -- **Kate LaCross, Freshmen**

"He seems like he is not quite honest. He is not really the president. His wife is doing morethan he is." --**Laurie Kraft, Sophomore**

" I can see Clinton as a leader of the country--that work's for me. Bush didn't work for me. Reagan didn't work for me. -- **Marc LaForce, Teacher**

The Class of 2000

In With One Millenium, Out With Another

Lauren Penna

The class of 2000 are not all of the same mindset. Some freshmen see the class advancing with the years. Freshman Meredith McNally said, "A few people realize the potential our class has. The rest don't and those are the people that will stay average, until they see it."

Some of the freshmen feel that they will perhaps learn from the older students, and learn from their mistakes. Freshman Kevin Kearney commented, "I think we'll just have to learn and watch the upperclassmen. We'll be influenced by them until we graduate."

"The high school isn't really that different from the middle school, there's just more work," commented freshman Rachel Merton.

The class work and homework might be a bit different from the middle school, but it is nothing significant enough to be altering the class' work ethics.

"It is really too soon to tell, but all the freshmen seem to adjusting reasonably well," commented assistant principal Mr. Lane.

"The expectations are high, so is the potential, but the motivation just isn't totally there," commented freshman Jessi Laughton.

Usually, parents have high expectations for their children. As technology advances and the world's problems become more complicated, the expectations are much harder to achieve.

Society is expecting a lot of future advances in technology and other areas that this class will have the chance to excel in. "People are going to end up failing if they don't become motivated right now," commented freshman Lori Hamel.

Some freshmen have chosen to experiment with drugs and alcohol. Freshman Kevin Kearney felt that, "Some kids have decided to do drugs. The good thing is that most of them would be able to put themselves back on the right road when they need to."

When do they need to put themselves back on the right road? If these students continue to use drugs during their junior year, deciding about colleges and taking SAT's will be quite difficult. They may find quitting these actions not to be as easy as they thought in freshman year.

For some, the future in the crystal ball might be looking a little cloudy. As the year began and freshman are talking of their futures, it is clear that well over two-thirds feel the future is looking hopeful, and the expectations seem quite reasonable.

Is There a Bond in the Class of '97?

Alison Carr

On any given day, a bird's eye view of the cafeteria will give you the true status of how close the senior class is. There are clusters of seniors spread out over the entire room. But what of those people who aren't in a group? They are left to simply drift.

Is the senior class closer this year than in past years? There are mixed results. "I think we are, as a whole, closer than any other class," states Beth Kraft. "In my opinion, more people get along and cliques are not as prominent as in past years."-A.S.

Others have a different opinion, such as Mr. Lane, "The senior class is very fragmented. They are individual people which makes it difficult to find a common bond."

One senior shared that "I think it will be hard to get the seniors to unite because we are all different. We have different expectations and attitudes."

No matter what the opinions are, a lot of credit should go to the senior class officers. Katie Plimpton has done a commendable job so far, starting the year with a senior class barbecue. However, even that met with contrasting views. "I had a great time," said Jess Garvey, "it was a good chance to see everyone before school started." Another student didn't share that point of view. "The senior barbecue was a nice gesture, but it turned into a 'popular group' party, and basically sucked for the rest of us."

There is hope for those seniors who doubt the unity of their class. The senior advisors and class officers have been busy planning various activities such as Spaghetti Dinner, Sadies, Baccalaureate, and, of course, Senior Follies. There have also been talks of trips and a senior phone directory. Seniors should be encouraged to participate in these activities and support their fellow seniors.

Photo by David Jackson

Mr. Tappan is currently planning a trip to England during April Vacation. If you are interested in attending, please see him in room 113.

Getting In Is One Issue, Paying is Another

Becky Soderholm and Marriah Shields

Kyung Yu, an ORHS senior, is a person looking into financial aid right now. She started looking her junior year so she would be sure to get the best offer available. She went to the guidance office to look at her options by using a computer program and books about aid.

No time is too soon to start thinking about your future. There are many different kinds of aid to sort through and deadlines are not very far away.

"I started looking early because I knew it would be important," Kyung said.

Guidance counselor Mrs. MacKay suggests, "You first need to be aware of your options. You can apply for and be awarded a scholarship or you can see if you qualify for other financial aid. A scholarship is given to someone who is exceptional in academics, athletics, or another area."

Approximately 20% of the graduating class that plans to go on to college receives an academic scholarship, according to the guidance office. One example is the Gray Trust Fund scholarship. Elizabeth Barnaby, daughter of OR teacher Linda Barnaby, received this scholarship last year. The Gray Trust Fund scholarship is not need-based, but given strictly for academics. Elizabeth placed 11th in her class of around 300 students.

"It's really a great scholarship because every December you can apply for a renewal and receive an additional $1,000 each year." Mrs. Barnaby said. "Scholarships are tough to find; it's almost like you need someone to find them for you, but it's definitely worth the effort."

Senior Shannon Bowles hasn't had any trouble finding a scholarship. Her athletic abilities in gymnastics have earned her a full athletic scholarship at many universities. Ten percent of the graduating class receives an athletic scholarship. Shannon is now deciding among her top five choices, where the scholarships will pay for everything, including tuition, meals, and even lap top computers for away meets.

Shannon has put a lot of thought into her college choices and she admits that the search has been made simpler now that she doesn't have to worry about the cost.

According to the guidance office, approximately 20% of the graduating class that plans to go on to college receives an academic scholarship and 40% receive overall federal aid.

Other financial aid includes loans, grants, and college work study programs. These three things usually come as a package. Loans are sums of money that are paid back. A grant is money that is given to you without the commitment of having to pay it back. College work study is when a student works on campus to pay for their education.

In the guidance office you will find brochures and books that give details about various aid, as well as scholarship information. You can also schedule an appointment with your counselor to discuss any questions that you may have. Also, your counselors can help you by contacting the university of your choice to find out detailed information on their financial aid programs.

"Our goal is to help juniors and seniors get as much information as they need, which includes acting as a go-between for the student and their perspective college," Mrs. MacKay said.

The most important form for receiving financial aid is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA.) You can obtain this form from your high school guidance office or any college. This form will ask for information on your family's current financial status to determine if you can afford to pay for college or if the government should give you aid.

Forms usually arrive at the school during the month of December. They can be sent in from the first of January through the end of June. Because the forms are considered on a first-come, first-serve basis, the faster the form is received, the better off you will be.

On December 3rd at 7:00 pm, there will be a financial aid planning night workshop in the library to help students and their parents fill out the different forms. The forms are detailed, and it is important that they are filled out correctly or they may be disregarded.

Bookstores such as Stroudwater and The Little Professor in Dover carry a variety of books explaining the financial aid process.

Spirit Week at ORHS

Monday, Oct. 21-- Class Color Day

Tuesday, Oct. 22--College T-Shirt and Hat Day

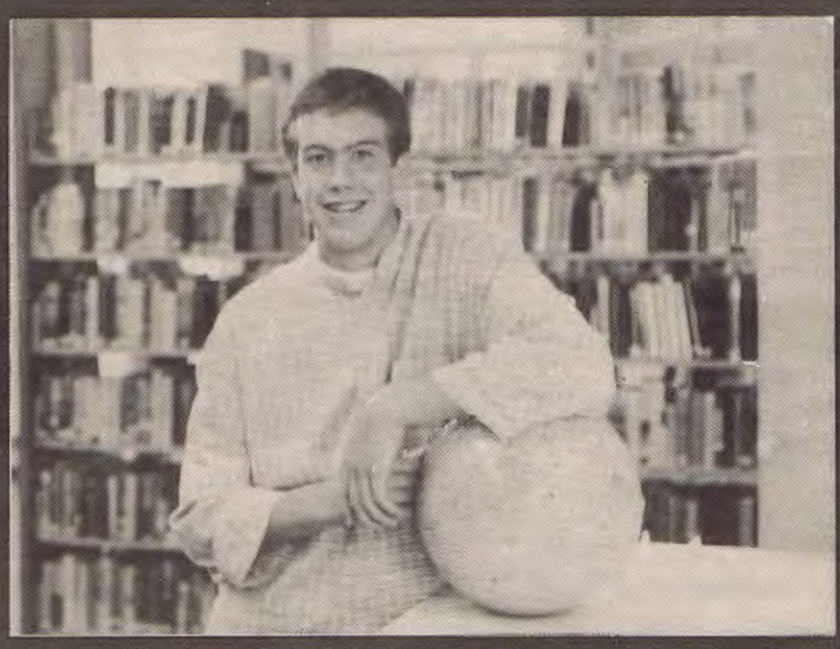
Wednesday. Oct. 23--Dress Day (TBA)

Thursday, Oct. 24--Dress Day (TBA)

Friday, Oct. 25--Blue and White Day. Pep Rally

Saturday, Oct. 26-Costume Ball

Congratulations



Eric Lang

OR's DAR Good Citizen

Photo by David Jackson

Students at OR have a hard time balancing activity after activity, let alone school itself.

Crisis Management for Some OR Students

David Jackson and Matt Whittier

Overload. It happens all too often to high school students. They try to do too much at one time. They study. They play sports. And on top of that, they work, sometimes as many as 20-25 hours a week. An increasing number of high school age students are becoming employed in an after school job.

A typical schedule for senior Golf player Greg Friel might read something like this: School from 7:00 to 2:30, then an after school golf match until 8:00 or 8:30 two or three days a week. After sports and maybe a little dinner, he does homework until ten at night. On the days he doesn't have golf, he works from 2 p.m. until 9 p.m. as a clerk and stock person at a local Brooks Pharmacy. "If I budget my time well, and keep my priorities straight, I find that I have some time left over to relax and wind down after a long day." Greg is just one of many high school age students who has been able to find a balance in his life.

Sometimes just playing a sport is too much on top of a full course load. For freshmen, it can even be overwhelming to the point of exhaustion. Throw a part-time job into the mix and you have a full schedule almost every day of the week. Many people can handle the stresses of a sport and a job, but at what cost? They might find that their school work suffers because they are spending too much time involved in extra-curricular activities and not enough time on the all too important studies. An after school sport and a job can wreak havoc on anyone's study habits. Over half of the students surveyed (58%) said that they devote zero to two hours for homework (the majority of those in the 1-2 hour range), 28% devote 2 to 4 hours and only 14% spend 4+ hours on their nightly homework.

Thirty-six percent of the students said that they have a significant other, while 54% of those with a significant other says having a boy- or girl-friend takes away from studies. For many people, weekends are the only free time available to spend with someone they care about.

Work is not an all together bad thing. It gives students a chance to earn extra money and learn responsibilities that will come all too soon when they get out into the real world. Of the 36 students that returned the survey handed out to juniors and seniors who play a high school sport, an amazing 66% say that they have a steady after school job, on top of playing on a school-affiliated team. Twenty-five percent of the people interviewed cited money as the main reason for working.

Junior Abbi Green said "sometimes it feels like I do too much with sports, school and a job, but I feel a lot better when I finally get my check. The money makes up for it." Senior Brooke Sparling, a senior defender on the field hockey team and a part time worker at Filenes in the Fox Run Mall says she only works on weekends so she has plenty of time for school work and her social life.

There is of course the opposite end of the extreme. There are those who don't work. Senior Peter Beck plays varsity volleyball and is a non-worker. He feels that playing a sport, working and going to school is too much. As it is he said, after-school volleyball takes away from his studies considerably. "To hold on to a sport it requires time and a lot of effort. Teachers don't realize that school jobs and sports take away from study time." He studies up to an hour and half a day on top of 2 hours of volleyball. He said that, except for weekends, his schedule is full.

Role Models or Convicts?

Greg Friel and Dan McClain

Along with the 1990's comes a new breed of role models. Painted fingernails, a dozen earrings, nose rings, skimpy outfits, and tattooed bodies. When you hear these characteristics, you probably think of a punk-rocker at a Megadeath concert, but in today's world, you see these features more and more on celebrities.

Are these the role models of today's youth? Although positive role models do still exist, young people of today seem to be abandoning them in favor of this new wave of celebrities.

The most notable of these icons is Chicago Bulls forward Dennis Rodman. A bit of an enigma, he is regarded by most as both the NBA's greatest rebounder and biggest headache. His intense attitude towards the game is often times overshadowed by his antics both on and off the court. His rap sheet includes taking his shoes off in the middle of the game, head-butting a referee, coming to what was supposed to be his wedding dressed as a woman, and blasting Pearl Jam music with a shotgun pressed to his temple.

Another violent role model is rapper Tupac Shakur, who was recently killed in a drive-by shooting, He has long been regarded as a man who is violent, belligerent, and racist. Yet his album 'Me Against the World' quickly went platinum grossing over $10 million in sales, and his newest album 'All Eyez on Me' is one of today's hottest.

However, as common in the celebrity world as these negative role models have become, there are still positive forces for young people to turn to.

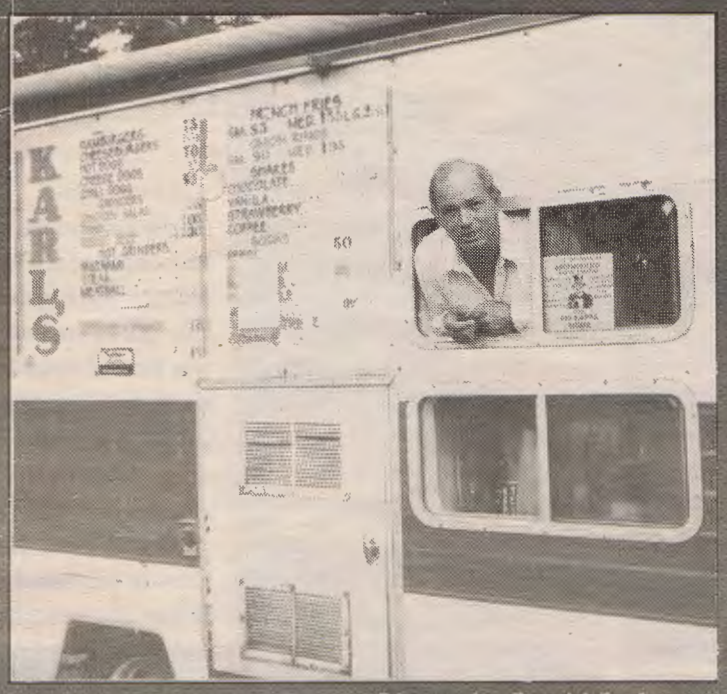
When Magic Johnson of the Los Angelcs Lakers announced that he had HIV, he made great strides to make sure everyone knew exactly what that meant. From a series of press conferences to an informational video featuring Johnson and good friend Arsenio Hall entitled 'Time Out: Straight Talk About HIV and AIDS', Johnson has worked overtime to increase AIDS awareness.

While these are examples of celebrities who have gained positive images by being involved in a cause, other examples of people like this are few and far between. The Romans, Shakurs, and Sterns are the new wave of today. Will this trend continue? The answer to that question is anybody's guess. But for now, don't be surprised when someone walks into your chemistry

Photo by David Jackson

Michael Beland, a member of the Advanced Biology class, shakes hands with Dean Donati, Director of Environmental Services at Oyster River. Donati will help the class in permit matters.

Karl's Back



Photos by David Jackson

Carl Porter, the custodian who retired three years ago, is now back at Oyster River until all of the custodians are back from the middle school. Karl, the merchant, is now back in the M.U.B. parking lot selling "Snotties" and "Brown Cows"

Politics to OR Students Are Boring

Ben Jenkins

The word apathy means to not care. Therefore, political apathy means that a person is not a republican, a democrat, or an independent. On politics, they simply don't care.

Apathy is a trait abundant in high school students. Oyster River High School is relatively fifty-fifty in the ratio of political apathetics and the politically aware students. Senior Jon Labrie keeps up with what's going on in the political world, for he will be able to vote for our next president. Yet Jon has always stayed in touch with our political system. Why?

"Even though I wasn't able to vote, I stayed informed. It's like learning to ride a bike right before a bike race. If you listen to the glitz right before an election, you'll end up voting for who looks best."

Junior Kim Parsons, on the other hand, will not be able to vote until 1998. She lacks any sort of interest in politics.

"I can't change anything without voting," says Kim, "...writing a letter to the goverment won't make any real change."

But will Kim vote when the opportunity comes? "Yes, and I still have two years to reasearch."

When Will the Scoreboard Be Lit?

Chris Quint

The Brian C. Swift memorial scoreboard has sat dormant for the first part of the fall sports season. There has been much excitement on the field due to the great start of both the boys' and girls' soccer teams. When fans look up at the scoreboard, however, it stands lifeless. Why? The senior class of 1996 donated the scoreboard in honor of Brian C. Swift. Swift passed away in October of 1995 after a long bout with cancer.

The class could not raise enough money to hire an electrician to hook up the board, but they were able to find electricians to do the job voluntarily. "The problem is that the people who are working at the middle school are the same people that volunteered to do the work on the scoreboard," said Mr. Nichols. Because the middle school is their priority at this time, the electritian can not fix the scoreboard until they are done with the middle school.

Shirley Thompson, who has volunteered her time in trying to get the electritions to the high school, stated that," The scoreboard should be ready by October 14." Many athletes are excited about using the scoreboard and are looking forward to the day it is ready. "It will be an honor for whatever team gets to light up the board first," said Sherif Farag.

News Briefs

Stephanie Schanda

This year's Odyssey of the Mind teams are being formed. If you'd like to join, please call Mrs. Labreque at 659-2408. This year's problems are Balloonodyssey cars, Omadroid, Can you dig it, and Double trouble.

The October 1st Freshman Class Officer elections brought a chance for the freshman class to meet. They elected President Megan Smith, Vice President Dave White, Secretary Kim Johnson, Treasurer Kiley Johns, Senators Sara Hopkins, Jesse Minard, Anne O'Sullivan, Rebecca Gray, Jessica Laughton, Steven Major, and Ruth Rice.

On October 2, two hundred kids met here to compete in a subject that they all love . . . Math. This was the first math meet of the year and it was on Home Court. ORHS has 15 people going - 10 competitors and 5 alternates.

Mrs. Houseman's Biology class is working with UNH graduates gathering field data to compile with international data. This is part of the world wide GLOBE project. GLOBE stands for "Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment." Already her classes have gone on a field trip with Dover schools to collect data.

Veterans of Foreign wars are sponsoring an annual audio essay competition for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. This year's program theme is "Democracy - Above and Beyond." First place is $20,000 in scholarship money.

Photo by David JAckson

Mr. Perry, along with his Advanced Physics class, check out a car. Matt Renner, looking on, plans to start building cars of his own.

Bobcat Sports

Bobcat Golf Swings Into Playoffs

Peter Beck

The Oyster River golf team has high hopes for a state championship this season. They are currently fourth in the state behind co-captains Jesse Smith and Greg Friel. The team is pouring in a solid five low scores.

"The team in general is a solid one. Ranging from the freshmen to the seniors, each player has a strong game. The goal of the team is to win the states and my personal goal is to be the best golfer in the world," said Sean Burke.

On Friday 10/4 at the 20 team Interlakes Invitational, the OR team found themselves in 7th place with a total stroke score of 345. Senior Sean Burke won the longest drive competition with a smash of 325 yards and Freshman Bastiaan Van Hoorn after tying for low meadalist position, lost in the second hole of sudden death after a 74. OR team finished with 22-3 season and will go for the state title on Friday at John H. Cair in Newport.

Golf is a mental and individual game. You are unable to allow your emotions get involved with your play. Getting out of a sand trap is a very mental part of the game." said Greg Friel

Even though golf is an mental and individual sport. Team unity still is very much part of the game. The eight players still have their roles on the course. Such as the captains helping out the younger players with a bad day, and the more experienced players shining on the course.

In a match at Amherst against John Stark High School, a freshman was caught in a sand trap. It took the person five swings to finally get out of the trap and on his fifth swing he hit the ball twenty feet over the green. Senior Greg Friel went up to the freshman whom was in tears and said, "It happens to the best of us."

Coach Jim Hornbeck said, "that everyone is pitching in on a

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Boys Varsity Soccer Showing Class I No Mercy

John McKenna, Josh Winslow

The 1996 boy's soccer teams have been going all out in offense and defense on the field. With a 7-0 record, the varsity team has only let in 2 goals and have scored over 34. "This team has a lot of potential and we have a chance to do as well as we choose to," said Varsity Goalie Eric Lang.

In their biggest rival game the Oyster River team took no mercy on the St. Thomas team and crushed them with a 5-0 defeat. During the game Some key plays include a goal that was passed by Mike Beland and headed in by his brother Joe. Other goals were scored by Jeremy Gasowski, Christian Quint(2), and Sherif Farag.

First year Coach Martin Brewer has come over from St. Thomas where he piloted the Girls team. This is his first year here at ORHS and things seem to be going well as their undefeated record may dictate. When asked about this season he commented "Things are going very well so far, and I'm very enthusiastic about future games."

"Whether it be offensively or defensively, we all work together as opposed to individual effort" said one of the team captain's Jeremy Gasowski. Along with Jeremy, Marc Hubbard seems to agree, in saying "We are team oriented, but Matt Renner and Christian Quint seem to stand out." Other team captains for the 1996 season include Matt Renner and Sherif Farag.

With their most recent win against Somersworth on Friday the 4th, they improved their record to 7-0. After a 0-0 tie at the end of the first half, they scored eight goals in the second half. Quint and Gasowski led the charge with two goals

SOCCER see page 15

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PURVEYORS OF FINE TUNES SINCE 1992

SOCCER from page 14

each, while Hubbard, Joe Beland, Sherif Farag and Martin Kesztyus all added one in this team effort. Senior Jeremy Beaudette commented that "the team doesn't allow anything to phase us. We came out fired up in the second half and tore them apart."

It seems that the boys varsity soccer has had a very good season so far. "I hope that we make it to state champs," stated by varsity player Marc Hubbard.

For the past couple years the Boy's JV soccer team have been undefeated. Although their streak has now ended (with a current record of 5-1)"We're having a decent season, but not as well as past years," said Kirk Remingnante, a JV defender.

"The team feels that there is a big difference in the way we played in the beginning of the season and the way we play now," said JV forward Carl Gasowski.

NEXT HOME GAME: Friday Oct. 11 vs. Con-Val

First Year Coaches Bring Veteran Perspective to OR Sports

Joe Beland

This year, the ORHS Athletic Department has changed its complexion by adding seven new coaches. Mr. Nichols, the athletic director at ORHS, is happy about the academic prowess that several of these coaches represent, "Of the seven new coaches, three of them are teachers, which is helpful because it allows them to see the students in a different setting" comments, Mr. Nichols.

First year English teacher and boy's Varsity soccer coach, Martin Brewer is also excited about coaching and teaching. "Teaching at the school gives an everyday touch and base, so you can relate to the kid's as people, not just as players." Brewer was the girls soccer coach of OR rival St. Thomas Acquinas as recently as last year where, according to Brewer, "I took the team as far as Icould." The STA girls finished second in class I last year.

Robert Quaglieri, a science and computer teacher at ORHS, is now a first year coach of Boy's Volleyball. Quaglieri has not coached volleyball before, but Captain Dave Jackson says, " Its not apparent that he hasen't coached before, he knows what he's talking about." Jackson is excited about his teacher/ coach, " We can talk physics or volleyball; having Mr. Q. as a coach introduces me to his personal side."

"We can talk Physics or volleyball; having Mr. Q. as a coach introduces me to his personal side."
-Dave Jackson

Tim Hornbeck, a former student at ORHS, is the new coach of the golf team. Hormbeck assumed control after Coach Smith passed away in December, 1995. Sean Burke comments, "it's not the same without Coach Smith because he made golf at the school, but the new guy brings a different approach to golf.""

Other new coaches include Gabe Lurvey; Boy's Freshman soccer, Rebecca Shersnow; Girls JV field hockey, Barbara Alexander; Girls Freshman soccer, and Stefany Shaheen; Girls JV volleyball,

These new coaches hope to bring greater athletics to OR. But, according to Dave Jackson, "They are becoming our friends as well as just being our coaches."

GOLF from page 14

22-3 record this season." He also said "an individual sport it also has its teams aspects. The inspirational leaders on the course are Jesse Smith, Sean Burke, and Ben Bratt, and the spiritual leader is Greg Friel. We have a strong team and a good shot at the states."

The teamconsists of eight players and a few alternates. The make-up of this year's Bobcat squad is: seniors, Cris Alvarez, Sean Burke, Greg Friel, Chris Merenda; Juniors, Jesse Smith, Ben Bratt; Sophmores, Ryan Foley, Matt Jenkins; freshmen, Craig Belgrade, Colin Burke, Bastiaan Van Hoorn, and David White.

Monday Night is Kid's Night

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Boys Volleyball Prepare for Concord Tourney

Joe Beland

The boy's volleyball team is feeling the repercussions of losing four starting seniors from last years team, who were runner's up in the state. The boy's team has added four new starter's. Co-Captain Dave Jackson commented on the new players,"They may be young, but they have heart."

The team has a record of two wins and four loses . They have played Soughan, Mascenic, Pinkerton, and Concord Acadamy.

Co-Captain Peter Beck commented on the season, saying, "we are seeing a gradual improvement each game."

Robert Quagliari, the first year coach of boy's volleyball, states that,"because of my lack of experience, I expect the captains to have more of a role than just being captains."

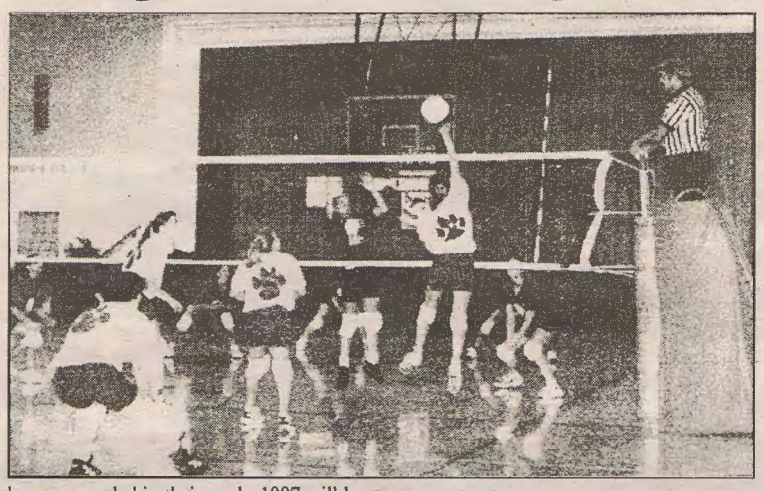
The Boy's volleyball team will be playing at Pinkerton on the 24th of October. Peter Beck comments, "It's going to be a very difficult game, because in the four years that I have been on the team we haven't beaten Pinkerton once at home."

The team will be going to a tournament in Concord Acadamy on Saturday. David Jackson replies" This will be a challenge for us to see how were going to do during the season. We've had our diffculties and hopefull we will pull it all together for the tournament."

Bobcat Sports

Girls Volleyball Setting Records, Turning Heads

Jen Lancaster



Now entering the second half of their season, the Oyster River Girls' Volleyball team has taken their game to new levels. After recently surpassing the state record for most consecutive wins, Oyster River has their eyes set on another state title. Although senior right-side player Meegan Smith explains, "[It's] not about winning [the championship], it's working together, reaching goals and taking our game to higher levels." How much higher no one knows.

For the past three years, Oyster River volleyball has been turning heads all over the state. Some coaches would go as far as to call them the best in the state among high school and collegiate teams. This year ends the four year dynasty that the seniors of Oyster River volleyball have created. The five starting seniors, setter Stacey Shaheen, right-side player Meegan Smith, middle hitter Katie Jentes, outside hitters Jessica Garvey and Erin Kelley walked into the gym as freshmen planning to leave behind a legacy. So far they have succeeded in their goal. 1997 will be the beginning of a new era for volleyball at Oyster River.

Among those who will be playing next year is junior Becky Laub, who made her mark this year rising to the challenge of being a starter for Oyster River. According to her teammates, her serving has made her a large threat to opposing teams and she is continuing to improve. Juniors Nicole Jonhson and Kendra Oxford have also contributed to the success of the team by providing strong play off the bench.

Oyster River knows what it takes it takes to be a championship team and as Shaheen tells,"Volleyball doesn't end when a practice or a game does. With Junior Olympics in the off season we are hardly ever not playing volleyball." The success of Oyster River Volleyball is also due to the amount of pride and heart they have for the game.

This season, Oyster River is 9-0 and has been blessed with no injures thus far.

Girls Field Hockey Seeing Turnaround From Last Season

Heather Fiore and Liz Rosengren

With a growing enrollment, a new coach, and a record already better than last season, Bobcat field hockey is looking great this year.

So far, the Varsity squad is 2 and 5, with wins against Bishop Brady and Souhegan. They have already improved over last year, in which they ended at 1 and 13, with only one goal scored all season.

In their latest game vs. Kearsage, Varsity was leading 2-0 in the first half, with both goals scored by Emily Baker. In the second half however, Kearsage came back with 3 goals to defeat the Bobcats.

The coaches are working them hard, but everyone is feeling better about this year. Varsity Co-captain Kirby Johns commented, "I think this years team is more unified."

Returning Varsity coach Sharon Tucker said "I think we're going into this season really strong. They're really pumped this year." With solid performances from Emily Baker, their top scorer, Catherine Gault, Brooke Sparling on defense, and Marriah Shields in goal, they have plenty of reason to be excited.

Catherine Gault and Kristy Tryder have made incredible improvements this season, and have been leading their team so far. Freshman goalie Mandy Goff is performing exceptionally as well. "She's the best goalie I've seen at this level. She's a godsend," Coach Shersnow commented.

Talent and Determination Spell Winning Season for Girls Soccer

Jeremy Gasowski, Jamie Renner, Ginger Sawtell

With a 6-2 record, the OR girls varsity soccer team is all smiles. Anticipating a rough season, Captain Megan Bowse commented, "I am surprised, but at the same time I'm not. The team respects each other and plays with a lot of heart."

This years varsity team, is the best in all seven years Chris Curran has been coaching here at Oyster River. "Technically the girls are much better than in previous years," said coach Chris Curran. "The girls are playing much better than during preseason. Oyster River has determination," which, Curran adds, combined with the talent of the team, "will lead to a winning season."

ing to St.Thomas last year, it was nice to finally put the rock in the back of the onion bag." Goals were scored by Katie Plimpton, Melanie Braswell, and, according to Coach Curran, "a spectacular 30 yard blast" from Meri Watson.

"The team respects each other and plays with a lot of heart."
-Megan Bowse

The Girls Varsity team recently came off with a 3-1 victory over longtime rival St.Thomas. Senior team Co-captain Katie Plimpton commented on the win, "After los

Behind the powerful Oyster River offense is, "a passionate and skillful defense," comments Co-captian Megan Bowse. Strong goal-keeping is displayed by Andrea Lord and Laurie Hamel, and an aggressive defense lead by Meri Watson and freshmen Jessie Laughton backs the team.

Although off to a slow start with a 2-3 season record, the J.V. team "has made consistent and never-ending improvement," according to Coach Linda Nelson. "They're a great bunch of players who possess exceptional passing, marking, and teamwork skills." Nelson has been coaching for 14 years and has played collegiate and international soccer. "They're the best team I've coached in terms of teamwork," said Nelson. "The J.V.'s passing and strategic play is as good, if not better, than other teams in their division. They just need to capitalize on opportunities and put the ball in the net."

Spirit a Major Debate Between OR XC Teams

Dan McClain, Heejung Kim

To many students at Oyster River, it is an accepted fact that in certain sports, the girls teams are held in higher regard than the boys. Cross country appears to be one of those sports.

The women runners unanimously attribute their success to their coach and world-renown triathlete, Carol Gephart. Freshmen Jocelyn Theriault called Gephart an incredible coach. When asked about the differences between ORHS and the Middle School Jocelyn responded, "The high school team is much more dedicated and the training is more intense. Everyday, we have a practice, and on Sundays, our team gets together and we have a 7-10 mile run."

The dedication required to do well on the team results in a very close-knit group. Team Co-captain Beth Kraft says, "I love to run more than anything in the world. . . the unity and support for each other on the girls team is amazing."

The girls contend that when compared to the spirit of the girls team, the guys are seriously lacking. No freshmen joined the boys team this year, and one runner said his reason for running cross country is that it's just something to do.

Boys Coach Bob Byrnes responds by saying, "The girls' perception [of the boys' spirit] is just that: their perception. The boys are definitely quieter and less outgoing. They just have a different, less external way of 'getting up' for meets."

Senior Runner Matt Fox adds, "I think that their success when compared to ours is due more to their talent than our lack of spirit. They have a lot of talented runners on their team. I don't think we show our spirit as much as the girls do, but we're still very team-oriented. We haven't done as well as the girls, but we've all improved individually and as a team as well, and we've been able to see that recently, especially in our last meet."

Senior Ben Jenkins commented, "Even though it's a cross country team, we run more as individuals than the girls."